

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

An old lady of Hengli, Ill., seventy years of age, has just learned to write. She says she has learned rather late in life, but she has learned by the thought that she has been thus prepared for writing a great mass of foolish things.

The figures of the Financial Chronicle show a gain of more than \$4,000,000, or 17 per cent, in the earnings of American railroads during March, 1887, over those of March, 1886. Out of 111 roads only thirteen exhibit a decrease.

It means that there must be war stories every day, just as there must be sunsets and sunrises. Now that there is no new martial character from Europe, the Anglo-American borderland has become the scene of a new war.

It is not yet proposed to make the speaking of French a criminal offense, but millions have been warned not to preach in this language.

According to the best record of grain and loss, the government seems to hold title to 1,616,101 square miles, or 1,044,560,842 acres. As is claimed, no one, however, is at present in possession of one person, the public domain alone, as it now stands, is sufficient to support a population of a dozen times as large as ours is at present.

Dr. C. H. MEYERMAN, orthopedist of the Department of Agriculture, in his report, recommends the destruction of the English sparrows, and says that this bird is a curse of much violence, and it ought to be systematically attacked and destroyed before it becomes necessary to deplete the public treasury for the purpose, as has been done in other countries.

The official return of the war office shows that the total number of British troops in the exterior zone of the western frontier, including Metz, Strasbourg, Karlsruhe, Freiburg and Trier, is 120,000 men, while in the interior zone, comprising Stuttgart, Ulm, Wurzburg, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt and Darmstadt, the number is 114,000. The total number of guns is 8,000.

The school board of Washington has forbidden pupils to carry knives. If they disobey the order, they will not be allowed to attend school on March 3. The weather is fitting now for out-door sports, and the price of liberty. The Washington school boys will, doubtless, kill two birds with one pistol, and gratify their taste for discipline, and for freedom.

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A syndicate composed of Chicago capitalists and United States army officers has purchased a tract of 5,000,000 acres lying in Gonzales, Durango and Chihuahua, in Northwestern Mexico. The tract is traversed by the Mexican Central and also by the International road, which Huntington is building from Eagle Pass to Laredo. This tract for 500,000 acres is the largest tract in the country. It is in the famous Laguna district.

The New York Legislature is wrestling with a bill to compel the savings banks of the State to publish the names of all depositors not less than \$100. The theory is that thousands of depositors have accounts of which their friends and heirs are entirely ignorant, and that the banks, not all industries in hanging up the heirs of their dead or disappeared depositors. The theory is supported with a multitude of proofs.

The spring has hardly settled down to business before we have received a devastating cyclone. These discomforts of summer seem to increase in frequency and violence each year. Eastern Ohio has caught the full blow this spring. A drought prevailed in Illinois for six weeks and a few days ago the thermometer stood at ninety in the shade. Such a combination of bad weather, with surrounding fires and occasional polar waves, are bound to stir up atmospheric convulsions.

The American people are awakening to the fact that the English sparrow is an intolerable nuisance and a curse. It is fully demonstrated that it does all day long devour the eggs of our native birds, and that the birds, not all industries in hanging up the heirs of their dead or disappeared depositors. The theory is supported with a multitude of proofs.

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NEWS NOTES.

Rear Admiral Drouin, of the French navy, is dead. He died suddenly at Munich, of cholera, the other day.

The William Lyngren Barkerham, C. B., the Earl of Longford, died at London a few days ago. He was born in 1819.

Miss Sears of Sacramento, has been appointed by the Governor of California as Justice of the State Supreme Court. The President has appointed George W. Clinton of Philadelphia to the West Point Military Academy.

The labor half-holiday which passed in the New York Legislature, made every day in the year from twelve noon to midnight, a holiday.

The London Clinton was run down and killed by an omnibus westward at Glass House, fifteen miles below Pittsburgh, the other day. No one was hurt.

Henry Livingston, who was running the steamers in New England under the name of the Great Overland and Pacific Tea Company, has failed. Liquidation, \$60,000, assets unknown.

The jury in the Schwartz trial at trial No. 10, for the murder of Major Messenger, returned a verdict of guilty, and both prisoners were sentenced to the penitentiary.

Samuel C. Shaffer, late of Lancaster, Pa., was indicted for the murder of John J. Blair, a millionaire of Lancaster, Pa., who disappeared the other day for want of evidence.

The Commerce Office of Bonn, Prussia, England, at which place ex-Secretary Manning is residing, has been notified by the German government, and expressing wishes for his speedy removal. Mr. Manning's wife has been notified to leave the country.

Charles H. Young, of New York, has been appointed secretary of the Pacific Railway Investigating Commission.

The President has made the following appointments: Robert C. Hoar, of New Jersey, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey; and Charles H. Young, of New York, to be Secretary of the Pacific Railway Investigating Commission.

James B. Eaton died Tuesday night last, from blood poisoning, caused by a wound in the leg, while engaged in a local duties. He was President of the Homeopathic Society and vice president of the American Institute of Homoeopathy.

An Irish non-commissioned officer of an artillery, who has been employed civilly in the Ordnance office at Woolwich, has been degraded, and sentenced to a year in the military prison, for selling secrets of the service to a civilian accomplice who was also degraded.

Congressman Payson, of Illinois, who is about returning to his home, says: "There ought to be an extra session of Congress, to discuss the question of the tariff, which will not be in time to relieve the country from the threat of a money panic, and which will not be in time to relieve the country from the threat of a money panic, and which will not be in time to relieve the country from the threat of a money panic."

A large delegation of representatives from Boston had a hearing of the other day before the committee on the subject of the Boston Institute of Homoeopathy. The delegation was composed of representatives from the Boston Institute of Homoeopathy, and the Boston Institute of Homoeopathy.

The school board of Washington has forbidden pupils to carry knives. If they disobey the order, they will not be allowed to attend school on March 3. The weather is fitting now for out-door sports, and the price of liberty. The Washington school boys will, doubtless, kill two birds with one pistol, and gratify their taste for discipline, and for freedom.

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HOME, FARM AND GARDEN.

Plenty of room, fresh air and clean house to live in are necessary for those who thrive and keep free from disease. The other day.

Potatoes Cakes—Mash the potatoes, and with milk thickened with flour, make into a thin batter; pour into a pie pan, and fry in small cakes.

—In northern climates gardens and orchards should be screened from the cold winds by the use of straw, or other material, to protect them from the cold winds.

—The person who goes into the chicken industry expecting simply to throw feed and gather eggs, will find the credit side of his account alarming.

—In ventilating a room, open the windows at the top and bottom. The fresh air rushes in at the top, while the foul air makes its exit at the other; thus you let in a friend and expel an enemy.

—The carpets about the house may be made to last much longer, and keep much cleaner, if occasionally, on general sweeping day, the floor be sprinkled with cornmeal and salt before commencing the other day for want of evidence.

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